



ImmuNet

Maryland's Immunization Registry

Frequently Asked Questions About ImmuNet

Q. Is information in ImmuNet confidential and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant?

A. Yes, by law, all information in ImmuNet is confidential. Treat it as you would any medical record, with the same protections to maintain confidentiality. The HIPAA regulations do not apply to immunization data. It is protected information under the treatment, payment and operations clause of the HIPPA legislation.

Q. What do I need on my computer to use ImmuNet?

A. You need access to the Internet through your organization's network or a dial-up modem connection to an Internet Service Provider (ISP) (Example: America Online). Also, you will need Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher installed on each computer that you plan to use.

Q. Is there a cost to participate in ImmuNet?

A. No, ImmuNet is a web-based database that is free to all Maryland providers of immunizations. Once you have completed the necessary paperwork, you will be assigned a user name and password and granted access to ImmuNet. All necessary forms and documentation, such as parent pamphlets, will be available via DHMH or printable via the web.

Q. Is it safe to transmit information over the Internet?

A. Yes. ImmuNet uses Oracle encryption technology which provides optimum protection when information is transmitted to and from the system.

Q. Will the public be informed about ImmuNet?

A. Yes, parents of newborns will receive education pamphlets when they are discharged from the hospital. Parents of older children will learn about ImmuNet through pamphlets that will be available at all participating ImmuNet offices.

Q. Is parent consent required to share the record with ImmuNet?

A. No. Senate Bill 626, the Coordination of Immunization Services Act of 2001, has mandated that Maryland's ImmuNet is an opt-out system. This means that all immunization information can be entered into ImmuNet unless a parent refuses. Should this happen, a parent must complete the **Data Sharing Refusal Form**, return it to the ImmuNet staff to make their child's record inaccessible to ImmuNet authorized users.

Q. How will parents know that I am an ImmuNet provider?

A. All ImmuNet providers will be asked to display ImmuNet posters in their waiting rooms. These posters will advise parents that your office participates in ImmuNet and that the record is being shared. This is a requirement of all authorized ImmuNet providers.

Q. Can I browse ImmuNet for records of children that are not in my care?

A. No. Data is only to be used for the ongoing care of a current patient, and "browsing" for records of children not in your care is prohibited. Viewing of a new patient's ImmuNet file is allowed only after a parent or guardian provides the necessary demographic information to access the record.

Q. What do I do if I am having trouble accessing the ImmuNet system?

A. Contact the Center for Immunization ImmuNet help desk. It is available during regular business hours to address any problems you may be experiencing with ImmuNet. Moreover, this line will be available to receive your comments and suggestions as well.